

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on April 5, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Virginia Court (D)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lexi Goble, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 313, 4/1/2017; SB 337, 4/1/2017; SB 363, 4/1/2017

HEARING ON SB 337

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:47 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB 337, Eliminate board of environmental review.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:56 Leo Berry, Self

00:09:25 Bud Clinch, Montana Coal Council (MCC)

00:12:47 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

EXHIBIT(nah71a01)

00:15:57 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

00:16:41 Rep. Galt left the meeting

00:17:46 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:18:11 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:19:14 George Mathieus, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

00:19:52 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

EXHIBIT(nah71a02)

00:23:25 Tucker Finley, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

00:24:02 Richard Parks, Self

EXHIBIT(nah71a03)

00:25:57 Brenda Lindlief-Hall, Tongue River Water Users Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:28:17 Rep. Manzella

00:28:46 Sen. Ankney

00:30:01 Rep. Curdy

00:30:16 Sen. Ankney

00:30:22 Rep. Curdy

00:31:16 George Mathieus, DEQ

00:32:19 Chair White

00:36:34 George Mathieus, DEQ

00:37:55 Chair White

00:38:01 Rep. Noland

00:38:14 George Mathieus, DEQ

00:38:19 Rep. B. Brown

00:39:04 Sen. Ankney

00:39:36 Rep. Court

00:40:36 George Mathieus, DEQ

00:42:10 Rep. Gunderson

00:43:38 Anne Hedges, MEIC

00:44:48 George Mathieus, DEQ

00:46:10 Chair White

00:47:32 George Mathieus, DEQ
 00:48:58 Rep. Court
 00:49:35 George Mathieus, DEQ
 00:50:33 Rep. Gunderson
 00:51:25 George Mathieus

Closing by Sponsor:

00:51:55 Sen. Ankney

HEARING ON SB 363

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:56:28 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 363, Generally revise aquatic invasive species.

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:11:32 Martha Williams, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a06\)](#)

01:17:03 John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a07\)](#)

01:20:13 Rep. Cuffe
 01:23:06 Mark Aagenes, The Nature Conservancy
 01:25:07 Colin Cooney, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)
 01:26:13 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federations (MWF)
 01:26:46 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
 01:27:39 Rep. Z. Brown joined the meeting
 01:28:29 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF); Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
 01:30:40 Jeff Barber, Clark Fork Coalition (CFC)
 01:31:31 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
 01:33:02 Robin Cunningham, Fishers Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM)
 01:34:08 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited Montana
 01:35:55 Brenda Lindlief-Hall, Tongue River Water Users Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:37:10 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a08\)](#)

01:42:07 Ross Holter, Flathead Electric Cooperation (FEC)
 01:44:57 Bill Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)
 01:47:37 Tom Ebzery, Avista Utilities
 01:51:20 Travis Kavulla, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)
 01:55:06 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
 01:56:25 Carl Borgquist, Absaroka Energy
 01:59:05 Melinda Barnes, Bike Walk Montana
 02:01:05 Larry Volkening, Self

02:02:15 Andy Bower, Adventure Cycling Association
[EXHIBIT\(nah71a09\)](#)

02:05:10 Bill Wells, Self

Informational Testimony:

02:06:15 Aaron McNay, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:06:37 Rep. B. Brown
02:07:15 Sen. Vincent
02:07:53 Rep. B. Brown
02:08:11 Sen. Vincent
02:10:18 Chair White
02:10:51 Sen. Vincent
02:11:12 Chair White
02:12:12 Mike Agenes, Nature Conservancy
02:13:05 Rep. Flynn
02:13:23 Rep. Abbott left the meeting
02:14:04 Eric McNay
02:15:07 Bill Harty, MECA
02:15:41 Rep. Flynn
02:16:07 Bill Harty, MECA
02:16:57 Rep. Flynn
02:17:31 Travis Kavulla, PSC
02:18:00 Rep. Flynn
02:18:55 Sen. Vincent
02:23:07 Chair White
02:23:43 Sen. Vincent
02:23:54 Rep. Flynn
02:25:11 John Alke, NWE
02:25:45 Rep. Flynn
02:26:07 Sen. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

02:26:12 Sen. Vincent

02:33:01 Recess

02:46:50 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 313

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:47:12 Sen. Jon Sesso (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SB 313, Allow variance for stream restoration projects in flood plain.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:51:50 Rep. Flynn and Rep. Court left the meeting

02:57:01 Jeff Ryan, Lewis and Clark Conservation District (LCCD)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a10\)](#)

03:01:09 Jim Wilbar, Self

03:04:40 Elena Evens, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a11\)](#)

03:07:54 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

03:09:43 Jeff Barber, Clark Fork Coalition (CFC)

Opponents' Testimony:

03:11:11 Tom Berry, Musselshell County Commissioner

03:13:46 Jan Langel, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a12\)](#)

03:18:25 Lisa Oedewaldt, Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a13\)](#)

03:22:29 Delila Bruno, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

03:24:27 Adam Carlson, Association of Montana FloodPlain Managers (AMFM)

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a14\)](#)

03:28:32 Pamela Vosen, Fergus County Planning Office

03:31:09 Laurence Siroky, Self

03:35:16 Mike DaSilva, Self

[EXHIBIT\(nah71a15\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:39:19 Chair White

03:40:08 Jan Langel, DNRC

03:40:28 Traci Sears, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

03:43:29 Chair White

03:44:12 Traci Sears, DNRC

03:44:35 Rep. Z. Brown

03:46:10 Sen. Sesso

03:47:51 Rep. Curdy

03:48:23 Sen. Sesso

03:50:05 Rep. Gunderson

03:52:32 Lisa Oedewaldt, AMFM

03:52:52 Chair White

03:54:55 Traci Sears, DNRC
03:57:01 Chair White
03:57:16 Rep. Curdy
03:57:30 Traci Sears, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

03:58:34 Sen. Sesso

Committee Business:

04:01:36 Chair White
04:07:21 Rep. Z. Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
04:07:45

Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah71aad.pdf](#))